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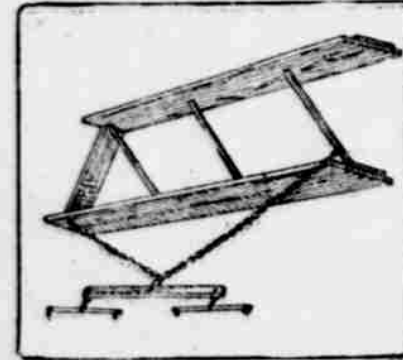
HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT

ROAD IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

Ever Recurring Problem of Upkeep
Can, in Large Measure, Be Solved
by Use of Road Drag.

(By R. H. FLINT, University Farm, St.
Paul, Minn.)

Because of its cheapness the earth road is, and for many years to come will continue to be, the most common form of road in use in rural communities. The ever recurring problem of upkeep on such roads can, in a large measure, be solved by the use of the so-called split-log drag, which can be constructed as shown in the accompanying picture by any one who has suitable material at hand. A log is not necessary, or perhaps not desirable, for its construction. Choose four pieces of plank of some strong wood, such as elm or red fir, two inches thick and eight feet long. Two of them should be ten or twelve inches in width, but the other two may be narrower as shown in the picture, since they are simply bolted to the backs of the wider planks for reinforcement. If planks three and a half or four inches thick can conveniently be obtained, a single thickness of them should be used, instead of building up as shown in the cut. In any case, the drag can be put together



Road Drag.

with round poles wedged into auger holes as shown, or the crosspieces may be set up with mortise and tenon joints and kept tight by long bolts passing through the front and back planks.

A piece of iron about three and one-half feet long, three or four inches wide and one-fourth of an inch thick should be used for a blade. By means of bolts with flat, counter-sunk heads, this blade should be attached to the front plank in such a manner that its edge will project a half-inch below the plank at the ditch end, while the end of the iron toward the middle of the drag should be flush with the edge of the plank. If the face of the plank stands plumb it will be well to wedge out the bottom of the iron with a wedge-shaped piece of wood to give the iron a set similar to that of a plane bit.

A platform of inch boards cleated together, with cracks an inch wide between the boards to prevent dirt from collecting on top, is placed on the cross-pieces of the drag to furnish a platform for the driver. This platform should rest upon the cross-pieces between the planks without being fastened to the drag. It is not shown in the illustration.

Any chain having the strength of a trace chain may be used to draw the drag and should be attached as shown in the picture, but the proper position for attaching the doubletires must be determined by experiment and will vary with the kind of work done. The chain should be about nine feet long for a drag of the size shown in the cut and should have the eye for the clevis put in about three feet from the end. The chain attaches by means of an eyebolt, as shown in the picture, to the ditch or blade end of the drag. The other end of the chain should finish with a grabhook for use in adjusting the length of the hitch after the chain is passed around the hitch piece at the road end of the drag.

Commonly the drag should follow the team at an angle of about forty-five degrees with their line of travel, to cause the dirt to move steadily and freely along the face of the planks from the ditch toward the center of the road. In every case the angle at which the drag will travel can be governed by the position of the hitch, which is changed within reasonable limits by lengthening or shortening the chain, and by the position of the driver on the drag. A very little experience will enable anyone to adjust these things satisfactorily.

To Clean Plumage.
The plumage of a white fowl can be cleaned of stain by washing with a clean white or transparent soap that is free from much alkali. Make a strong lather and use your hand feathers downward, from the head to the tail.

Abuse of Roads.
Using the roadside for a "public dump" and filling the side ditches with waste material doesn't help appearance any, for it does it help to solve the drainage problem in the maintenance of roads.

Takes Out Wrinkles.
If you are riding in a swiftly moving vehicle, like an automobile, you can easily tell whether the road has been dragged or not. Dragging takes out all the "wrinkles."

LIVE STOCK

PROFITABLE WEIGHT OF PIGS

Experiments Prove Conclusively That
Animal Should Never Be Fed After
Nine Months Old.

Experiments made for the purpose of determining the economic weight of a pig show conclusively that he never should be fed beyond eight or nine months old, and the largest profit is found, as a rule, in a pig not exceeding 200 pounds. What is known as the food of support, says a writer in the Farm and Home, plays a very important part in the profit and loss of large weights.

Suppose, as many farmers say, that a pig is not to be killed until he reaches 300 pounds. He must take from his food an increasing amount each day to support or maintain the weight already gained, or else he drops back. The experiments indicate that two per cent. of the live weight in food must be taken each day to support that live weight.

If the animal weighs 300 pounds this amounts to six pounds of food daily, or over 40 pounds per week, and as the only profit is the food that is applied to make new weight, it results that over 40 pounds of food are consumed per week from which no profit whatever is reaped. It follows that the more money can be made from young hogs killed at a medium weight.

OVERFEED HORSES WITH HAY

If Stomach Is Kept Full of Bulky Food
Extra Work Is Imposed on
Respiratory System.

Too much hay fed to the farm horse is an injury and often lessens his working efficiency, according to the Oregon experiment station. Every time a horse inhales his lungs the stomach is displaced, and if this organ is kept full of bulky food extra work is imposed on the respiratory system. Heaves, colic and other forms of indigestion are often due to this cause. There is also a waste that should be conserved.

A horse weighing 1,000 pounds will do more work and keep in better health on 15 pounds of hay daily than on 20 pounds. Feed him ten pounds at night and five pounds in the morning and he will perform more labor with greater ease than he would if he were kept before him all the time.

A horse weighing 1,500 to 1,800 pounds does not need more than 20 pounds of hay a day, and the rest of his nutriment should be grain.

USEFUL FOR RINGING SWINE

Device Constructed on Plan of De-
horning Chute Will Hold Hogs
of Different Sizes.

My hog holder is made on the plan of a dehorning chute and is the best I have yet seen. It will hold a 50-pound pig or a 400-pound hog equally well, at ringing time, writes W. C. Buffington of Guedo Springs, Kan., in the Farmers Mail and Breeze. The frame is made of 2 by 4's bolted together at top and bottom. The lever may be shifted at the bottom to fit



For Holding Hogs.

large or small hogs' heads. The opening in the lever and frame, which is closed over the hog's neck, is eight inches from the base. The handle is notched at its upper end into which a short piece of 2 by 4 catches to hold the lever in place when an animal is caught. This piece is hinged to the frame.

LIVE STOCK NOTES

Pigs should be changed to fresh pasture frequently.

Now is the time to get cheap gains on the spring pigs.

Be sure there is plenty of fresh water in every pasture.

Look out for the ewes. Good ewes are good property, always.

Live stock on the farm will turn unmarketable feeds into money.

Every care should be taken to get the lambs to start eating grain.

If you want to have peace of mind, fix up the fence around the sheep pasture.

There is nothing like a cement hog wallow to keep the hogs contented and comfortable in hot weather.

If young pigs become blistered by the hot sun, grease their backs and put them in a shady pasture.

Introducing is dangerous with all types of farm stock. It always pays to get new and vigorous blood.

If you are buying a horse, get him or a slow trot. Then, if ever, he will show any lameness he may have.

A close watch should be kept upon all ewes with young lambs, to avoid loss by setbacks in lamb growth.

ADVICE TO THE POULTRYMEN

Agricultural Department Issues Comprehensive Statement on Difficulties and Remedies.

The two farmers' bulletins relating to the poultry industry recently issued by the United States department of agriculture entitled "Hints to Poultry Raisers" and "Important Diseases," present to poultrymen a very concise, and, at the same time, comprehensive statement as to the difficulties encountered and the best methods of overcoming them.

The selection of a breed suited to the requirements of the owner, the artificial and natural incubation and brooding, the construction of houses and fixtures, methods of feeding, egg production and marketing are all covered in short, terse, convincing statements in the first mentioned bulletin.

The second supplements this information and the other advice as to the prevention of lice and mites and the treatment of common diseases, with a full and detailed description of the important diseases affecting fowls and the remedies which have been found effective.

Contagious diseases and the larger parasites are the most important obstacles which the poultryman has to overcome to keep his birds in a healthy condition. Preventive measures are the best, and also the cheapest, because, no matter how large the first cost, the great loss inflicted by an epidemic in which a number of birds may die, is saved, and also the indirect but even greater loss, which the weakened condition and loss of product cause, is eliminated.

There are, of course, cases in which medicines may be advantageously given or applied to sick fowls, but generally speaking, it is better to kill all sick birds, and thus avoid the spread of disease to many other birds in the flock. Then, a sick bird is an indication that it is more susceptible to disease than the other birds of the flock, which, to be strong and healthy, must be relieved of the menace of delicate and susceptible members.

Even with flocks practically free from disease germs and parasites, it requires the utmost watchfulness and care to maintain them in that condition. There are a number of reasons given for this, and mature and experience-bought advice is given as to the preparation and maintenance of poultry houses and yards free from the germs and parasites which so often turn a prosperous business into another of the many failures at "Poultry raising for a profit."

COVER FOR POULTRY TROUGH

Old Peach Basket May Be Arranged
by Cutting Out Hoops—Fowls
Cannot Get Into Water.

Take a peach basket. Cut out the hoops except at top and bottom, sharpen the ends and place over the vessel containing water for the fowls. The birds cannot get into the water



Cover for Poultry Trough.

and it may be kept clean. Always use a vessel that can be taken out and cleaned every time before refilling.

FARMER SHOULD GRADE EGGS

Show Up Better Than Those Piled In
Promiscuously and Also Com-
mand Better Prices.

Even buyers at the little country store will appreciate your efforts if you will sort your eggs according to size and color. Graded eggs show up a great deal better than those that are piled in promiscuously, and should—and will—command a better price if the dealer's attention is called to the fact, and he is assured that your eggs will be furnished that way all the time.

There are few, even of country stores, who would not be able to command a higher price for uniform, clean, fresh eggs, attractively packed, and one who produces that kind of egg found can secure an advance in the market price. Large shippers will jump at the chance to secure eggs of this class, and are always ready to pay a higher price.

One firm made the statement recently that strictly first-class eggs were worth 8 cents a dozen more than their trade than eggs that they could not guarantee. It is the cheapest possible way to increase the poultry income. Try it.

Cleanliness in Nest.

Clean nests are very essential in producing clean eggs. Change the nest material occasionally, and use a preservative against insects burn the discarded material that is taken from the nests. Too much care cannot be given to cleanliness in the poultry yard.

Material for Egg Shells.

Hens demand some mineral matter to form the shell of their eggs. Do not forget the oyster shell and the hard, sharp grit. These will furnish material for the formation of the egg's shell and at the same time will keep the fowls in a healthy condition.

JACK WAS SO TAME

By ELIZABETH OGILVIE.

"Here's the very thing I am looking for, Lil! 'Lonely gentleman living in the city; forty years old; no bad habits; dark hair and eyes; good business man; wants to correspond with lady, blonde preferred; must be pretty; object, friendship and affection; will exchange photographs. Address, B. L. K., Tribune Office.' I am going to answer this, Lil! I'm going to be the pretty blonde lady."

"You will never do it, Mollie; it would be scandalous. You, a married woman, too."

"I don't care if I am; I can't stay cooped up here all summer without having a little fun. I have been here a whole month now, and haven't had one adventure."

"Yes, Mollie, but this is too dangerous to be funny. If Jack ever hears of it, he will be angry enough to divorce you, and I wouldn't blame him if he did. You know he has a temper."

"Pooh! Jack is a lamb; I am not a bit afraid of Jack; he is so tame; just like a canary bird fed on lump sugar. I know he would be shocked and such a thing would never enter his dear, old head, but I am going to do it anyway."

Lil sighed. "Well, Mollie, remember I do not approve of this thing at all. Whose picture will you send? Not your own, of course."

"I can get one somewhere. I want one of a beautiful young girl. That one in your room, the one Amy Brown gave you will do; can I have it?"

"Yes, I suppose, but I do wish you would give up this crazy scheme, Mollie."

Robert, staid, sober, B. L. K., finding it impossible to leave his business in the city had sent his young and pretty wife out to her sister, who lived alone in a quiet little village.

Mollie answered the advertisement of the unknown B. L. K. and anxiously awaited results, which came in a few days in the shape of an answer. The correspondence progressed rapidly. He praised her eyes, hinted that life would be more worth living with her by his side, and urged her to meet him in the city soon.

Mollie Bates, during of spirit, loving adventure more than anything else in the world, promised to meet him sometime, but did not name a date.

His letters were warm, tender, loving. He had advanced so far as to call her pet names.

Mollie had had more amusement than she ever imagined possible in that quiet, out-of-the-way place.

"I do wish Jack wouldn't write me letters on a typewriter. It always seems like a business letter. There's no sentiment in this kind of a letter. It's been so long since I have seen his writing, I would never recognize it, I know."

"You ought to be thankful to get any kind of a letter from him. I should think your conscience would give you no peace," answered Lil, the righteous.

Mollie decided to have one look and then go home. After much thinking as to time and place, she agreed to meet the unknown B. L. K. at the Allendale cafe at 11. She decided to go into the city on the interurban, take lunch with him and then go back and tell Lil what a jolly time she had had.

Her car was a few minutes late. "Will he be waiting," she wondered. "Really, this is equal to a schoolgirl's romance, and dear, old Jack would be shocked at me or any other woman doing such a dreadful thing." She hastened to the trying place. All the way to the city she had been trying to picture what he would look like and what he would say. He was to wear a white carnation on the right lapel of his coat, and she had agreed to wear a pink one on her left shoulder. How ridiculous it all seemed, and what an adventure it was, too.

She walked with her head up and a firm step; only a moment now and she would reach the cafe door. She adjusted her veil, put one hand back to the meeting place of waist and skirt, gave a hitch here, a pull there, drew a deep breath, opened the door and walked into the room.

"Why, hello, Mollie, what has brought you to the city today?" anxiously asked Jack, looking steadily at the pink carnation on her shoulder.

"I came—I came to see you, Jack," stammered Mollie, blushing a rosy red.

She was only sure of one thing: safely pinned to the right lapel of Jack's coat—dear, dignified, sedate, charming Jack—was a white carnation.

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Hard Loser.

"What ever became of that woman who was married on a bet?" "She is now giving her time to a crusade against gambling,"—Judge.

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